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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER
Vol.7,no.1
April 3, 1919.

There has been no news letter for this year yet, and there ought to be a large supply of news, and probably there is, if it were not so old that we have ceased to recognize it as news.

Miss Mary G. Lacy, who has been in the Library for ten years, has left it to go to the Iowa State College Library as agricultural librarian. She is very much interested in the development of library extension work, and hopes to accomplish something along that line in Iowa. Miss Helen Thompson is at present occupying Miss Lacy's desk and doing reference work, along with many of her former duties.

Miss Sherman is back in Washington, after being absent since last summer for rest and recuperation. She is well now and expects to be back in the Bureau of Markets Library soon.

Miss Marie K. Pidgeon has been transferred from the Military Intelligence service of the War Department to the Bureau of Plant Industry Library, where she is in charge of the Periodicals.

New appointees in the Library, or at least appointees not previously reported are Miss Helen F. Treat, who is assisting at the Periodical Desk and Miss Clara A. Glidden at present at the Loan Desk. Miss Glidden came to us from the Colorado State Agricultural College where she was assistant librarian. Mr. Aaron Ceppos, who was with us for a short time a year ago last summer, is also again assisting at the Loan Desk. Charles A. Loven who has been messenger in the Bureau of Markets Library, has been transferred to the Main Library. We also have a new messenger boy, William Hooper.

Miss Oberly is to tell us later about an interesting experiment they are making in order to reduce the circulation of their periodicals.

Miss Colcord is supervising the preparation of the Bibliography of economic entomology, in continuation of the one formerly edited by Mr. Banks. The last issue covered 1905 to 1914. The present one will be for the five years, 1915 to 1919.

The Department Library has always had its books shelved by one of the messengers. This arrangement has been very unsatisfactory lately, because our messengers have been young and irresponsible, and have changed so often. As an experiment we have tried having one of the charwomen do this work and are more than pleased with the result. She takes an interest in getting the books in their proper places and having the shelves in an orderly condition, which is more than we were able to get any boy to do. The boys were satisfied and we were thankful if they got the book within two or three shelves of where

it should go, and as for moving a shelf of books along in order to put a book in its place rather than to shove it in on top of the others, that was something they could never be taught to do. But Alice does it, and it is a great comfort.

The next number of Special Libraries is to be an agricultural one and Miss Barnett, as agricultural editor, has charge of obtaining the material for it. She also had an article on "Government Libraries, old and new", which you have probably seen in the December number of Special Libraries and one on "Agricultural library work and the new epoch" in the March number of Public Libraries.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

Vol.7,no.2

June 5, 1919.

We are glad to report that one of the two staff members who went into the Army has returned safely and is back again in the Library. This is Mr. Roderick Jamison.

Miss Grace L. Snodgrass, of the Kentucky Experiment Station, has a temporary appointment in the Library. She is assisting us, and at the same time hopes to learn something to help her in her own work.

The States Relations Service Library has been kind enough to lend the Dept. Library the services of Miss Lewis for half her time. This relieves Miss Glidden at the Loan Desk in the morning and allows her to do some cataloging, of which there is a large amount waiting to be done.

Miss J.M. Allen of the B. P. I. Library, has been doing some special work on an index to refrigeration in the Dept. Library. We have been brazen enough to turn this to our own advantage by asking if she would not sit in the Reading Room for half a day, where she will be available as a source of information for "The Public". This allows Miss Thompson to be at her own desk during the morning. Miss Allen says that the principal question she has had to answer is "What are you doing here"?

The A. L. A., as you probably all know is comparatively near by this year - at Asbury Park, and a number of people are going, including Miss Barnett. Miss Warner is to have a paper before the Agr. Lib. Section on bibliographical opportunities in horticulture. The weather this week has been a strong reminder of the A.L.A. meeting in 1914, during the corresponding week.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

vol. 7, no. 3.

October 30, 1919

As it is a good many months since our last meeting, and as the Department library has not ceased to have changes of personnel at about the same rate as heretofore, there is considerable material of this sort for a newsletter.

Miss Gertrude Barnes resigned from the library in August and in September was married out in Texas to Mr. Alexander R. Carson. Miss Katherine Upton was present at the wedding and reports favorably on it. Mrs. Carson is living in El Paso.

Mr. Roderick Jamison, who was here in the library for several years and left to enter the army, has now left us again for work in the Treasury Department. Mr. Eugene Upton, who was an assistant in the Periodical Division for about a year, has left to go to college at Johns Hopkins.

But, to look on the brighter side, new appointments are Miss Charlotte Trolinger, who has been working at the Periodical Desk, Miss Elisabeth Walton, who is doing the bookkeeping, Miss Lucy Baker who is cataloging, Miss Kiersted, who does stenography and typewriting and has also been assisting in the Periodical Division, Miss Ingeborg Gronvold who is entering periodicals, and Mrs. Grace Carnes, who is at the Loan Desk. Miss Gronvold is familiar with the Scandinavian languages, and we expect to find this knowledge very useful. Mr. Richard Umhau, who was in the library for a number of years, but enlisted last year and has been working at the Army Medical School, we are very glad to have with us again.

New messenger boys are George O'Connor, Linwood Phillips and Reginald Oden.

The Department Library's roll is nearly full now, and most people's vacations are over, so that it is now possible to allow some members of the staff to settle down to cataloging, a thing which has not happened before for a long time, and the great piles of uncatalogued material are experiencing a decided decrease, while the new book shelves look well fed. But it takes a good while to catch up after arrears of such long standing. Some one, perhaps Miss Barnett, has remarked that library work has points of resemblance to housework in that there are certain things, such as washing dishes, entering periodicals, charging books and getting meals that have to be done whatever happens, while others, like sweeping and cataloguing can be put off for a while. But there does come a day of reckoning and we had got to that point.

We are now receiving German periodicals rather regularly, and in many, perhaps most cases, we have the 1918 and 1919 numbers complete. These periodicals ceased to come in the spring of 1916, and the gaps between

that time and 1918 have not yet been filled. Many of these journals along with those for other libraries, were stored in a warehouse in Leipzig which was burned. However, within the last few days we have received several large packages of 1917 (with some 1916) periodicals, and we are rather more hopeful about the ultimate completeness of our sets.

The first number of a new mimeographed series from the Library was begun recently with the issuance of "A checklist of the publications of the Department of Agriculture relating to plant pathology" prepared by the Bureau of Plant Industry Library, as "Bibliographical contributions of the Library of the Department" no.1.

Miss Marjorie Warner is spending some weeks in the libraries of Boston and New York in the interests of horticultural bibliography. She will also try to locate in these libraries some important botanical works which are at present not obtainable in Washington. In Boston the libraries visited were the Arnold Arboretum, Gray Herbarium, Massachusetts horticultural society and Harvard University. At the latter place the Fearing collection which is extremely rich in old agricultural works was of particular interest. In New York Miss Warner has her headquarters at the New York Public, but will also visit the library of the New York Botanic Garden. Incidentally she managed to get a good look at the king and queen of Belgium and we hope is taking in some of the other good things New York has to offer including Italian restaurants.

Miss Martha Sherman came to the Bureau of Plant Industry Library on September 15, being transferred from the Smithsonian library.

Miss Elsie Moore, librarian of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has been ill for several months, but we understand that she is improving, and hope that she will soon be able to come back to work. Miss Thorwarth has been taking her place.

Two of the Bureau librarians, Miss Oberly and Miss Doonan, were assigned in June to work with the reclassification commission, where they still are at the good work, it is to be presumed of getting us all large fat salaries.

A 1919 supplement to the extensive bibliography on the marketing of farm products has been prepared and issued by the Bureau of Markets Library. It is in mimeographed form and in nine parts to conform with the original bibliography.

The annotated list of Periodical reports issued by the Bureau of Markets was revised in the Bureau of Markets Library during September, 1919, and distributed in mimeographed form.

Librarians may be interested in the fact that the two printed serial publications of the Bureau of Markets, Food Surveys and the Seed reporter, have been merged. Certain of the mimeographed reports will be consolidated with this merger and the whole will be known as the Market Reporter. The initial number will probably appear in November 1919 and it will be issued

as a monthly. From a library point of view it is to be regretted that it cannot begin as an entirely new publication, but as it must conform with the authority granted by the Joint Committee on Printing it will probably begin as N.S. vol.1, no.1. These changes will make necessary an early revision of the September list of Periodical Reports just mentioned, but this will not be undertaken until the scope of the new Market Reporter is more fully determined.

Changes in the personnel of the Bureau of Markets Library since June are as follows:

On July 1 Miss Anne P. Rhodes was transferred from the Food Survey work at the Homer Building to the library of the Bureau of Markets.

On September 15 Miss Mary E. Griffith, Assistant Librarian and Assistant Editor of the Bureau resigned after five years' effective service to take up secretarial and editorial work in Syracuse, New York.

In September Sidney Watkins replaced Jerome Crowder as messenger for the Markets Library.

It is a common mistake to suppose that the only way to
improve the quality of the work is to increase the number of
workers. In fact, the quality of the work is determined by the
skill of the workers and the quality of the materials used. The
only way to improve the quality of the work is to invest in
training and to use high quality materials.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIBRARY

NEWS LETTER

VOL 7, no. 4.

November 23, 1919.

The past month has seen few changes in the Library. There have been no new appointments and no resignations, but several of the staff have taken over new work. Miss Wilkins is now at Miss Lacy's desk in the Reference Room, and is doing reference work in addition to accessioning periodicals, while Miss Swart is at the periodical desk. Miss Trolinger has been added to the number of catalogers, as has Miss Crowther, so that our packages of bulletin slips are growing quite bulky again. It has been necessary to move another desk into the Cataloging Room to accommodate everyone. Mr. Loven has been transferred to the Periodical Division, and Miss Brandes has taken his place at the Loan Desk.

Miss Barnett, who has been very busy with reclassification work, is taking her vacation this month. Others who have a few days left are taking leave in small doses.

Miss Sherman of Markets Library is away on a trip to Boston and New York to get data for the Reclassification Commission on salaries paid in libraries of business firms and institutions whose work is similar in scope to ours, such as the Guaranty Trust, Federal Reserve and Rockefeller Foundation. Miss Smith of Plant Industry has also been with the Reclassification Commission for a couple weeks.

Miss Warner has returned from her trip, and reports some interesting discoveries in horticultural books.

A new departure at the Main Library is proving quite successful. Miss Katherine Upton is classifying all books and assigning subject headings, with a view to making the cataloging more uniform. This also enables the catalogers to pile more books on Moses' desk until he occasionally has to have an assistant.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIBRARY

NEWS LETTER
vol. 7, no. 5.
December 18, 1919.

There is even less news than last month, as it is only three weeks since the November meeting, and there have been no changes in the work.

A recent accession to the library is a set of Liebig's Annalen, vol. 1-404, with indexes, costing \$1500. This gives Chemistry a complete set to file. Volumes 1-125 were new to the Library.

A cloud of gloom settled over the catalogers yesterday when Dr. Wilcox of Farm Management announced his resignation from the department. He is to write for the Curtis Publishing Company.

Miss Kiersted has been called home to Missouri by the serious illness of her sister.

Miss Katharine G. Rice of the University of Illinois has recently been appointed to assist with the editorial and library work of the Bureau of Markets. At present she is bringing up to date a rather extensive bibliography of the preservation of fruits and vegetables compiled by one of the Sections of investigators during 1918.

Miss Gildersleeve of Entomology has been working at the main Library for some time under Miss Colcord's supervision, compiling an Index of economic entomology. This index is to be completed early in January and will cover the period from 1915 through 1919. At present there are over 20,000 entries.

Miss Mary Lacy is coming back to Washington in January but not to the Library. She is to be research assistant in Scripps's Economic Bureau. It is quite unnecessary to say how disappointed we all are.

Miss Doonan, librarian of the Dairy Division, who has been working with the Reclassification Commission since June, expects to leave the Department in January to become librarian of the Public Health Service.

